

# 4th & Stewart church of Christ

"...upon this rock I will build my church;  
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."  
~ Matthew 16:18



December 4, 2016

## Contact Us:

3201 4th Street  
Brownwood, TX 76801

325-646-7102

www.4thstreetcoc.org  
office@4thstreetcoc.org

## Meeting Times:

### Sunday:

Bible Study .....9:45 AM  
Worship .....10:40 AM  
Care, Inc. Service .... 2:30 PM  
Worship ..... 6:00 PM

### Wednesday:

Ladies Bible Class.10:00 AM  
Bible Study ..... 7:00 PM

## Elders:

Gene Bannister..... Billy Chism

## Deacons:

Mike Bannister..... Don Smith

James Thomas

## Preacher:

Johnny McCaghren

## Works We Support:

Cherokee Home for Children  
Gospel Broadcast Network  
Heart of Texas Bible Camp (Bangs)  
House to House, Heart to Heart  
Mission Printing  
Rohan Jones, Africa  
The Truth in Love  
World Bible School

Let us know if you want to study  
the Bible to know more about  
Christ and His Church.

## Four Reasons I am Thankful for the Church

### The church taught me about Jesus.

I do not remember a time when I did not know about Jesus. That is primarily because all throughout my childhood, the church was a major part of my life. The church – which includes my parents – taught me about Jesus and why I should love Him.

My parents read me Bible stories. I attended Bible classes on Sundays and Wednesdays. I sat in a pew every Sunday, hearing (even if not always actively listening) to sermons and singing songs. I went to church camps, youth rallies, and even a few gospel meetings. The church was as much a part of my life as my physical family.

I don't understand people who resent being "drug to church" as a child. I can't even fathom feeling that way. The church introduced me to Jesus and for that, I will forever be thankful.

### The Holy Spirit ministers to me through the church.

I believe Scripture teaches that the Spirit of God equips each member of the body to minister to the rest of the body in a particular way. Although He equips people differently today than He did in the first century, I believe this statement is still true, "to each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good" (1 Corinthians 12:7).

When my brothers and sisters encourage me, comfort me, teach me, or admonish me, the Holy Spirit is working through them for my good. The Spirit gives life to the body of Christ and empowers the body to be the hands, feet, and mouth of Jesus in the world today. God has graciously given each member a gift and those gifts have often been employed to serve me (1 Peter 4:10-11).

It is wonderful to have shoulders to cry on and arms to wrap around you when you hurting, to have people teach you things you had not previously known or considered, and to have people share with you when you're in need. Those have been just a few of my experiences in the church; both from the giving and receiving side. And as Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

### The church gives me a place to be challenged.

The church isn't perfect and I'm not perfect. We are all trying to grow up into the people God wants us to be. And growth doesn't happen in a comfortable environment, but in a challenging environment. It is only when imperfect people commit themselves to other imperfect people that anyone experiences spiritual growth.

When my brothers and sisters in Christ show that they are imperfect in their under-

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"Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God...". Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time."  
**Matthew 4:1-3a; Luke 4:13**



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standing or their behavior, I could just walk away. Or I could look at it as an opportunity to grow in my ability to walk, “with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4:2-3).

I am so thankful that my brothers and sisters have walked with me in humility, gentleness, and patience. I am thankful they bear with me in love. I’m also thankful for their imperfections so that I have the opportunity to do the same with them. God is shaping us all into the people He wants us to be, in part, by allowing us opportunities to share our lives with people who are sometimes challenging to love.

### Being a part of the church means being a part of God’s people.

One of the major themes of the Bible is, what it means to be the people of God. All throughout the Bible, God has a group of people who are His people. They are set apart and protected by God. They are loved in a special way. First it was Adam and Eve. Then it was Noah and His family. Then it was Abraham. Then it was the Israelites. And finally, it is those who choose to follow Jesus; otherwise known as, “the church.”

Even more than personal salvation, most of the New Testament is dedicated to explaining what it means to be a Gentile and be part of the people of God. That is not a blessing anyone should take lightly. It is something for which we should all be incredibly thankful.

God has grafted me into the family tree of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Romans 11:11-24). When I was baptized into Christ, I became a child of Abraham, an heir according to promise (Galatians 3:27-29). Because I submitted myself to the kingship of Jesus, He gave me the right to become God’s child and call God my Father (John 1:12).

In Christ, the family story of the Bible is my family story. I’m getting the opportunity to live out that family story with the church every day of my life. And I am overwhelmed with gratitude that God has allowed me to be part of His people, to have a seat at His banquet table, to be a citizen of His heavenly kingdom, and to share in the inheritance He is giving to His people.

That is what it means to be part of the church and that is why I’m thankful.

Wes McAdams (www.radicallychristian.com)

## God Is Not Like Your Friends

*“I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs” (Luke 11:8, ESV).*

When waiting on an answer from God, it is easier to doubt than trust.

To help us overcome this inclination, Jesus taught of a man who received a guest at a late hour. Being so late, he had no food to set before him, a customary hospitality. It is not unusual for desert travelers to do so at night, but the traveler was still unexpected. The cultural demands of hospitality imposed themselves upon the host’s conscience like an ominous shadow. He was forced out into the night to beg a neighbor for help (Luke 11:6).

We might envision the man approaching a neighboring tent, maybe some distance away. Within was a common area – a large main room in which to eat a meal, to socialize, to escape from the heat of the day. It could be open to the air, or closed off if needed due to wind and sand.

A large curtain or curtains toward the back divided off a smaller section, the sleeping quarters. The whole family slept in this room, which may or may not have been divided into smaller sections by curtains. Unlike our walled and insulated homes, to disturb the tent at midnight was to disturb the whole family.

The neighbor does not want to be bothered. He first snubs the request. Why should this be his problem? Perhaps he had good reason. Maybe he had been up later than usual already – working out a problem with a family member, or tending to a sick child, or suffering with an upset stomach. Perhaps only recently had his eyes found their much-longed for heaviness. “No! Please leave me be!” (Luke 11:7).

But alas, like water over a rock, the neighbor’s rejection is met with his friend’s tenacious persistence that slowly wears him down. He finally rises and fulfills his friend’s request, not out of good will, but because he realizes he will have no rest otherwise (Luke 11:8).

The bond of friendship can have its boundaries. The pressure of culture can be mitigated. In all of us, in all our relationships, there are circumstances that drive us to promote our self-interest over the interests of others. We know this of ourselves, and we see it in others. When our requests are not fulfilled, when our expectations are not met, we immediately default to what we know: our selfish-

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### Television

The Truth In Love (Robert Dodson)

Sunday @ 7:00am on KTAB

In Search of the Lord’s Way (Phil Sanders)

Sunday @ 7:30am on KTAB

Life In The Light (Chris McCurley)

Sunday @ 10:30am on KTAB

### Radio

Preaching the Word (Michael Light)

Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3

### Internet

TheGospelRadioNetwork.org

Gospel Broadcasting Network (Gbnv.org)

### God’s Plan for Redeeming Man

**Hear** Learn the saving message of Christ’s sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).

**Believe** Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)

**Confess** Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)

**Repent** of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)

Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being **baptized** for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)

**Live faithfully** (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)

### Bible Reading Schedule

**Dec. 4** Colossians 3—1 Thess. 1

**Dec. 5** 1 Thessalonians 2-5

**Dec. 6** 2 Thessalonians 1-3

**Dec. 7** 1 Timothy 1-3

**Dec. 8** 1 Timothy 4-6

**Dec. 9** 2 Timothy 1-4

**Dec. 10** Titus 1-3

**Dec. 11** Philemon—Hebrews 1

*“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”*

(2 Timothy 2:15)



**Visitation Meeting**

- ◆ Each Sunday night immediately before the evening worship. Last week **49 contacts** were made.

**Announcements**

- ◆ The next **“Digging Deeper” ladies study and fellowship** will be Tuesday night, 6:30pm, at the McCaghren’s.
- ◆ The **“progressive dinner / holiday party”** will be this Saturday night. We will begin with appetizers at the McCaghren’s home at **4:00pm**. We will then proceed to the church building for the main course, then the Dennis’ home for desserts and singing. We still need people to sign up to help with the main course. **Please plan on attending. It will be a great time of fellowship!**
- ◆ **First Sunday Fellowship Meal** after services this morning.

**Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart**

- ◆ March 26-29—Spring Gospel Meeting with Russell Bell.
- Other Opportunities to Learn and Grow**
- ◆ Dec. 9-11—“Family Matters” Seminar @ Lake Shore Drive (Waco). (Flyer on bulletin board)

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ness often trumps our best intentions. We often assume the worst, that we’ve been given second place, or worse, forgotten altogether.

But Jesus painted this lackluster – yet true – picture of humanity to provide the stark contrast between ourselves and God. None of those things are ever true of God. God is not like us (Psalm 50:21). God is not like our friends.

He is never so absorbed in himself that he cannot answer. He is never so consumed with someone else’s problems that he cannot be bothered with ours. He is never ignoring us, or snubbing us, hoping we will drop the subject.

Sometimes, *it just seems that way.*

But even the school of life teaches us that all is not as it seems. Shadows are often distorted images of the objects from which they are cast; sounds and sights are often falsely identified; people often turn out far differently than we first imagined, for better or worse.

Through this parable, Jesus teaches us that things with God are not always as they seem. Our default when awaiting an answer from heaven is to make God one of us – distracted, selfish, disinterested. Jesus retrains our hearts – broken by our own sins and the darkness of this world – to claim a new default when doubts arise concerning our heavenly Father (Luke 11:11-12). God always hears, and cares, and answers. Our persistence in prayer is actually welcome, and beneficial (Luke 11:9-10). We are no bother at all.

This parable (and others similar to it) is an expression of divine compassion, intended to forever lift the dark clouds of doubt from our heart, and to deepen the anchor of our faith in God. If even *this one thing* is true of our God, then we are blessed indeed.

*Rick Kelley* (www.forthright.net)

**Celebrate**

*“Rejoice with those who rejoice...” (Romans 12:15)*

**December Birthdays:** Estelle Guthrie (7), Laverne Thomas (13), Veneta Nolen (17), Kaci Churchwell (18), Linda Griffith (20), Mia Stroope (22), John McCaghren (27).

**December Anniversaries:** Allen & Linda Griffith (20), David & Glenda Milam (20), Ken & Jo Maninger (25).

*Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...*



**Records**

	Nov. 20, 2016	Nov. 27, 2016
Bible Class	58	54
AM Worship	84	70
PM Worship	46	49
Wednesday PM	31	43
Contribution	\$2,412	\$1,883

# Privileged To Serve

"...be ready to every good work" (Titus 3:1)

This Week: 12/4/16		Next Week: 12/11/16		<b>December 2016</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> Gene Bannister <b>Prepare Communion:</b> John Barnum Family <b>Clean Building:</b> Huckaby / Bland  <b>January 2017</b> <b>Make Announcements:</b> John Barnum <b>Prepare Communion:</b> McCaghren Family <b>Clean Building:</b> McCaghren Family
<b>Sunday AM:</b>	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister		
<b>Greeters</b>	Allen & Linda Griffith	Maninger Family		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Gene Bannister	James Fuller		
<b>Communion</b>	Don Smith*, Larry Petty Ryan Rudloff, Hank Wheeler	John Barnum*, Allen Bland Tom Wilcox, Randy Huckaby		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	John Barnum	Allen Griffith		
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Ian Barnum	Jaceten Evetts		
<b>Sunday PM:</b>	Song Leader: Tom Wilcox	Song Leader: Ken Maninger		
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	James Fuller	Mike Bannister		
<b>Scripture Reading</b>	Randy Huckaby	Don Smith		
<b>Communion</b>	Don Smith	John Barnum		
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Allen Griffith	Gene Bannister		
<b>Wednesday Devotionals:</b>	December 7 Prayer Night	December 14 Don Smith	December 21 Joe Dennis	December 28 Allen Griffith

## Search the Scriptures

*Be like the Bereans who "received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." (Acts 17:11)*

### Studies for the week of December 4, 2016

Sunday Class ..... **Romans 3:21ff**  
 Wed. Class ..... **What Does It Mean to be Just a Christian?**

<p><b>Who Is Jesus? – The Temptation of Jesus (Matt. 4:1-11)</b></p> <p>One of the blessings of having Jesus as our Savior is His ability to comfort and aid those who are tempted.</p> <p><b>I. The Temptation of Jesus.</b></p> <p>A. The Setting.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Jesus was "led up by the Spirit into the wilderness" (1).</li> <li>2. "To be tempted by the devil" (1).</li> <li>3. Jesus fasted and was tempted for forty days (2; Lk. 4:1-2; Mk. 1:13).</li> </ol> <p>B. The Culmination of the Temptations.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The first temptation (3-4).                     <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Satan's appeal to the lust of the flesh – "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."</li> <li>b. Jesus responds with Scripture – "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" (Deut. 8:3).</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. The second temptation (5-7).                     <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Satan appeals to the pride of life – "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down" – even quoting Scripture (Psalm 91:11,12).</li> <li>b. Jesus responds with Scripture – "You shall not tempt the Lord your God" (Deut. 6:16).</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. The third temptation (8-10).                     <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Satan appeals to the lust of the eyes – "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me."</li> <li>b. Jesus responds with Scripture – "You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve" (Deut. 6:13).</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>C. At the End of the Temptations.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Angels came and ministered to Jesus (11).</li> <li>2. This would not be the last time Satan would tempt Jesus (Lk. 4:13).</li> </ol> <p><b>II. Observations from the Temptation of Jesus.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. We Have the Same Adversary.</li> <li>B. We Have Similar Temptations.</li> <li>C. We Have the Same Weapons to Overcome.</li> <li>D. We Have Similar Blessings When We Overcome.</li> <li>E. We Can Learn Some Important Lessons.</li> </ol> <p><i>"For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted" (Heb. 2:18)</i></p>	<p><b>Thanksgiving – Psalm 65 – "Thanksgiving for God's Goodness"</b></p> <p><b>I. Thanksgiving for God hearing prayers (1-2).</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. "Praise is awaiting You, O God, in Zion" (1a). [There will be silence before Thee, and praise in Zion, O God – NASB]</li> <li>B. "And to You the vow shall be performed" (1b).</li> <li>C. "O You who hear prayer, to You all flesh will come" (2).</li> </ol> <p><b>II. Thanksgiving for God's forgiveness (3).</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. "Iniquities prevail against me; as for our transgressions, You will provide atonement for them."</li> </ol> <p><b>III. Thanksgiving for the privilege of worship (4).</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. "Blessed is the man You choose, and cause to approach You, that he may dwell in Your courts" (4a).</li> <li>B. "We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, of Your holy temple."</li> </ol> <p><b>IV. Thanksgiving for God's answers to prayer (5).</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. "By awesome deeds in righteousness You will answer us, O God of our salvation" (5a).</li> <li>B. "You who are the confidence of all the ends of the earth, and of the far-off seas" (5b).</li> </ol> <p><b>V. Thanksgiving for God's creation (6-8).</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. "Who established the mountains by His strength, being clothed with power".</li> <li>B. "Who will still the noise of the seas, the noise of their waves, and the tumult of the peoples" (7).</li> <li>C. "They also who dwell in the farthest parts are afraid of Your signs; You make the outgoings of the morning and evening rejoice" (8).</li> </ol> <p><b>VI. Thanksgiving for abundant crops (vss. 9-13).</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. "You visit the earth and water it, You greatly enrich it" (9a).</li> <li>B. "The river of God is full of water; You provide their grain, for so You have prepared it" (9b).</li> <li>C. "You water its ridges abundantly, You settles its furrows; You make it soft with showers, You bless its growth" (10).</li> <li>D. "You crown the year with Your goodness" (11a).</li> <li>E. "And Your paths drip with abundance" [with fatness – NASB] (11b).</li> <li>F. "They drop on the pastures of the wilderness, and the little hills rejoice on every side" (12).</li> <li>G. "The pastures are clothed with flocks; the valleys also are covered with grain; they shout for joy, they also sing" (13).</li> </ol>
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